

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 SSO-00 /090 W

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R 191517Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6513

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11349

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, US, XF, SY, LE

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN POLITICAL COUNSELOR ON MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, EGYPTIAN POLITICAL COUNSELOR SHEL BAYA REPORTS HEAVY SOVIET PRESSURE ON SYRIA TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM LEBANON, DESCRIBES TACIT SYRIAN, JORDANIAN, RIGHT WING LEBANESE PLAN TO SO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES AS TO WEAKEN PALESTINIAN POLITICAL EFFORT, AND DECLARES THAT TIME IS NOW RIGHT TO "MAKE DEALS" IN LEBANON AND IN MIDDLE EAST AS A WHOLE. ONLY U.S. HAS KEY TO SOLUTION OF EXISTING PROBLEMS, HE SAID, BUT SOVIET UNION CANNOT BE EXCLUDED FROM NEGOTIATING PROCESS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING JULY 19 CALL BY POL COUNSELOR ON EGYPTIAN POL COUNSELOR SHEL BAYA, LATTER MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM VISITED MOSCOW AT SYRIAN INSISTENCE. VISIT WAS A FAILURE, AND SOVIET PRESSURE TO WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON  
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FOLLOWED. SYRIANS HAD ASKED FOR ACCELERATED ARMS DELIVIERIES, BUT

SOVIETS AGREED ONLY ON CONDITION SYRIANS WITHDREW. ECONOMIC PRESSURE HAS ALSO BEEN APPLIED. GREAT SOVIET CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN MIDDLE EAST WAS INDICATED BY FULSOME WEEKEND PRESS COVERAGE OF 18TH ANNIVERSARY OF IRAQI REVOLUTION. IRAQI AMBASSADOR WAS ALLOWED EXTREMELY UNUSUAL TEN MINUTE TV SPOT OVER WEEKEND TO READ SPEECH MARKING HIS NATIONAL DAY.

--THERE ARE TWO PATTERNS VISIBLE BENEATH COMPLICATED LEBANESE EVENTS; FIRST, PERCEPTION BY ARAB DIPLOMATS AND KNOWLEDGE-ABLE SOVIETS IS THAT ASAD MUST HAVE BEEN GIVEN A GREEN LIGHT BY U.S. PRIOR TO HIS INTERVENTION; SECOND, THERE IS A TACIT COMMUNITY OF INTEREST FORMING BETWEEN SYRIA, JORDAN AND THE NON-LEFT, NON-PALESTINIAN FORCES IN LEBANON OVER THE NEED TO SO ORDER LEBANESE EVENTS AS TO WEAKEN PALESTINIAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY INFLUENCE WHICH, IN TURN, WILL MAKE THE PALESTINIANS MORE AMENABLE TO A REALISTIC SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN THE REGION.

--IN THIS REGARD, WITH PRESSURE INCREASING ON ALL SIDES, THE TIMING IS EXTREMELY PROPITIOUS FOR "DEALS" TO BE MADE WHICH WILL SETTLE THE CRISIS IN LEBANON AND WHICH MIGHT ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF AN OVERALL SOLUTION IN M.E. ONLY U.S. HOLDS KEY TO SOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEMS, BUT SOVIET UNION CANNOT BE EXCLUDED FROM PROCESS. MOSCOW MUST BE BROUGHT IN, PARTICULARLY ON MATTER OF BROAD, GENERAL SETTLEMENT, ACCORDING TO SHELBAYA.

3. LONG RANGE SYRIAN AIM, SHELBAYA SAID, IS EVENTUAL CONFEDERATION OF SYRIA, JORDAN AND LEBANON WITH PALESTINIANS INCLUDED WITHIN SUCH CONFEDERATION AS PART OF JORDAN. NO OTHER HYPOTHESIS, HE SAID, CAN ACCOUNT FOR SYRIAN ACTIONS IN LEBANON OR HUSSEIN'S SUDDEN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH ASAD.

4. COMMENT. SHELBAYA WAS INSISTENT IN PROPOUNDING THE THESIS THAT TIME IS NOW RIPE FOR U.S. TO "MAKE DEALS" VIS-A-VIS LEBANON AND MIDDLE EAST AND ON NECESSITY OF INCLUDING SOVIET UNION IN THE PROCESS. ALTHOUGH HE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM LONG VACATION IN CAIRO, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT HE WAS PUTTING FORTH PERSONAL IDEAS RATHER THAN ARTICULATING OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN VIEWS. IN ANY CASE, HIS DESCRIPTION OF SOVIET REFUSAL OF SYRIAN REQUEST FOR ACCELERATED  
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ARMS SHIPMENTS SOUNDS PLAUSIBLE AND MAY WELL REPRESENT ONE KIND OF PRESSURE WHICH MOSCOW IS NOW APPLYING TO DAMASCUS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TROOP DEPLOYMENT, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, SPEECHES, POLITICAL SITUATION, ARMS SHIPMENTS, INVASIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 JUL 1976  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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